

# DRAFT

## Bay Delta Conservation Plan Planning Priorities For January and February 2009

January 16, 2009

Completing the administrative draft of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan by June 2009 will require the members of the BDCP Steering Committee to develop or refine several key components of the draft plan in early 2009, working specific tasks either through the existing workgroups or through the Integration Team, with support from the SAIC consultants and others as needed. The following outlines several of the top priorities for the BDCP Steering Committee members to address over the first two months of 2009 as additional technical work occurs within SAIC on the elements of Chapter 3. These topics are not listed in any particular order of priority; rather, they are intended to reflect matters that will need to be addressed immediately and in parallel.

**1. Task: Complete Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Program**

- Develop acreage targets for each habitat type
- Convene subgroup to develop conservation measures for terrestrial species, based on ISA report and other information (see Task 6, below)
- Review and revise habitat-related monitoring plan and parameters for changed circumstances and responses

Working Assignment: Habitat Technical Team

Timing: Address first two items immediately through mid-February; and monitoring and changed circumstances by the end of February

**2. Task: Complete Development of Hydrodynamic Parameters and Operating Criteria for the Long-Term and for the Near-Term**

- Address outflow issues to complete long-term operational parameters
- Further evaluate various operational parameters for the near-term
- Prepare draft description of near-term water operations with thru-Delta conveyance
- Review and revise operational monitoring plan and changes to operations associated with changed circumstances

Working Assignment: Integration Team

Timing: Address first items through mid-February; address monitoring and changed circumstances in later February.

**3. Task: Describe Water Diversion and Conveyance Facilities**

- Describe near-term in-Delta water diversion and conveyance facilities
- Review and revise monitoring and changed circumstances and response plan for conveyance-related measures.

Working Assignment: Conveyance Workgroup

Timing: Immediately through mid-February for first item; second half of February for monitoring and changed circumstances.

**4. Task: Refine Conservation Actions Related to Other Stressors**

- Further identify specific actions and mechanisms to enhance the feasibility of implementation for priority measures
- Review and revise monitoring plan and changed circumstances and responses associated with other stressors

Working Assignment: Other Stressors Workgroup (or subset thereof)

Timing: February

**5. Task: Complete Draft Biological Goals and Objectives**

- Revise working biological goals and objectives based on the development and refinement of conservation measures
- Develop biological goals and objectives for terrestrial species

Working Assignment: Biological Goals Working Group

Timing: Address terrestrial species goals and objectives immediately; refine broader package of goals and objectives after receipt of adaptive management report and outcomes of DRERIP evaluations in February.

**6. Task: Address Outstanding Issues Associated with Terrestrial Species**

- Review independent science advisory recommendations on topic;
- Develop goals and objectives for terrestrial covered species;
- Develop measures to address impacts to terrestrial species;
- Coordinate measures and their implementation with conservation planning efforts of neighboring local governments.

Work Assignments: New subgroup to be recommended by Habitat Technical Team and Biological Goals Work Group

Timing: Immediately through end of February

**7. Task: Prepare Adaptive Management, Monitoring and Research Plan**

- Evaluate recommendations provided by the ISA
- Identify range of changed circumstances that will be addressed in the BDCP
- Prepare adaptive management, monitoring and research plan (including process/structure proposed for plan governance and implementation)
- Identify need and scope for potential follow-up ISA workshop
- Coordinate second ISA workshop, if any

Work Assignment: SAIC products to relevant work group for review, then to Integration Team

Timing: Immediately through end of February

**8. Task: Prepare Alternatives to the Proposed BDCP**

- Identify alternative approaches to reduce impacts to covered species associated with covered activities

Work Assignment: Integration Team and SAIC

Timing: Second half of February into March

**9. Task: Develop a Proposed Governance/Implementation Structure**

- Develop a proposed structure for BDCP governance and implementation
- Evaluate proposed structure to ensure capacity to implement Conservation Strategy elements, including the adaptive management and monitoring program and the responses to changed circumstances

- Review compatibility between BDCP structure and Delta Vision proposals

Work Assignment: Governance Workgroup

Timing: Initial recommendations by end of January